

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0035] as follows:

[0035] Fig. 5 shows a block diagram of a computer system 502 that may be configured with instructions that when executed by a processor approximate a transcendental function according to the branch-free methodology. The system 502 features a pipelined processor 504 that is coupled to a nonvolatile mass storage device 514 via a bus 526. The processor 504 may have a hardware architecture that is deeply pipelined and in which branch mispredictions cause a significant performance penalty. The mass storage device 514 may be a conventional rotating magnetic disk drive or other nonvolatile memory for storing program instructions and data to be executed by the processor 504. Instructions and data are normally transferred to program memory 508, which may be a higher speed, volatile memory such as dynamic random access memory (DRAM), as they are executed by the processor 504. The results of the execution may be displayed using a display 522, such as a cathode ray tube (CRT) or other visual display device, accessed via a display interface 518. In addition, the results of the program execution may be transferred out to a data network via a network interface 512. The program instructions and data for the branch-free software methodology are introduced into the system 502 via either the network interface 512 or through a portable storage device interface 510. The latter acts as an interface to a storage medium such as a compact disc read only memory (CD-ROM) or other portable, nonvolatile storage device.